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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

25096 7590 04/12/2006
PERKINS COIE LLP
PATENT-SEA
P.O. BOX 1247
SEATTLE, WA 98111-1247



EXAMINER	
PHUONG, DAI	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2617	

DATE MAILED: 04/12/2006

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/690,468	10/20/2003	Steve Clayton	101948083US	4838

TITLE OF INVENTION: PREVENTING UNAUTHORIZED SWITCHING OF MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1400	\$300	\$1700	07/12/2006

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.
- B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or
- B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

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Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

25096 7590 04/12/2006

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I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

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10/690,468	10/20/2003	Steve Clayton	101948083US	4838

TITLE OF INVENTION: PREVENTING UNAUTHORIZED SWITCHING OF MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1400	\$300	\$1700	07/12/2006

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
PHUONG, DAI	2617	455-432300

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).
☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.

2. For printing on the patent front page, list
(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are enclosed:

- ☐ Issue Fee
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s):

- ☐ A check in the amount of the fee(s) is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☐ The Director is hereby authorized by charge the required fee(s), or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

The Director of the USPTO is requested to apply the Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if any) or to re-apply any previously paid issue fee to the application identified above. NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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10/690,468	10/20/2003	Steve Clayton	101948083US	4838
25096	7590	04/12/2006	EXAMINER	
PERKINS COIE LLP PATENT-SEA P.O. BOX 1247 SEATTLE, WA 98111-1247			PHUONG, DAI	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2617	
DATE MAILED: 04/12/2006				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 205 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 205 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/690,468

Examiner

Dai A. Phuong

Applicant(s)

CLAYTON, STEVE

Art Unit

2688

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 02/23/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10 and 12-40.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michelle C. Macartney at (206) 359-8000 on 03-02-2006.

The applicant has been amended as follow:

In The Claims:

Claim 7 has been canceled.

Claim 16 has been amended as followed:

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16. (Currently Amended) In a communications system including a mobile communications network configured to allow portability of mobile phone numbers, a method for preventing unauthorized switching of mobile communications service providers, the method comprising:

receiving a request to prevent unauthorized porting of a portable phone number assigned to a customer, wherein the unauthorized porting comprises

creating an association between an unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the assigned portable phone number, including associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the unauthorized mobile communications service provider so that calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number are routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the unauthorized mobile communications service provider, wherein an indication of the association of the portable phone number with the routing number is stored in at least one data store for storing information identifying a mapping between a customer's portable phone number and a unique routable number, wherein the routable number allows calls made to the customer using the portable phone number to be routed to a portion of

the mobile communications network associated with a mobile communications service provider, and wherein the at least one data store comprises a single network-wide data store;

storing a record of the request to prevent unauthorized porting of the assigned portable phone number, and

storing customer authorization information associated with authorizing porting of the assigned portable phone number.

Examiner Remark

2. The limitation of claim 7 has been added to independent claims 1, 8, 20, 28-30 and 35 to clarify that the limitation "at least one data store" comprises a single network-wide data store.

Reasons for Allowance

3. This office action is response to amendment filed on 02/23/2006. Claim 11 has been canceled and claims 1-10 and 12-40 are currently pending.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowed:

Claims 1-10 and 12-40 are allowed.

Claims 2-7 are dependent on claim 1.

Claims 9-10 and 12-15 are dependent on claim 8.

Claims 17-19 are dependent on claim 16.

Claims 21-27 are dependent on claim 20.

Claims 31-34 are dependent on claim 30.

Claims 36-40 are dependent on claim 35.

Regarding claim 1, the prior art record does not disclose nor fairly suggest a mobile communications system in a communications network configured for portability of mobile phone numbers, the system comprising: at least one data store for storing information identifying a mapping between a customer's portable phone number and a unique routable number, *wherein the routable number allows calls made to the customer using the portable phone number to be routed to a portion of the mobile communications network associated with a mobile communications service provider; an administration subsystem for facilitating the storage of information in the data store; and a customer data subsystem for storing customer data*

records, wherein the customer data records include authorization information associated with a request by the customer to prevent unauthorized porting of the portable phone number, wherein the unauthorized porting comprises creating a mapping between an unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number, and storing the mapping in the data store, wherein creating the mapping between the unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number includes associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the unauthorized mobile communications service provider so that calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number are routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the unauthorized mobile communications service; wherein the at least one data store comprises a single network-wide data store.

Regarding claim 8, the prior art record does not disclose nor fairly suggest in a communications system including a mobile communications network configured to allow portability of mobile phone numbers, a method for preventing unauthorized switching of mobile communications service providers, the method comprising: associating a portable phone number with a customer and with a first mobile communications service provider; *storing a record of the association between the portable phone number and the first mobile communications service provider in at least one data store that is accessible by multiple communications service providers within the mobile communications network; receiving a request for porting the portable phone number, wherein the porting includes associating a second mobile communications service provider with the assigned portable phone number; based on the request, analyzing a customer data record to determine whether the customer has authorized*

the requested porting by providing authorization information known by the customer information known by the customer, wherein the analyzing prevents unauthorized porting, and wherein the unauthorized porting comprises: creating a mapping between an unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number and storing the mapping in the data store, wherein creating the mapping between the unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number includes associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the unauthorized mobile communications service provider so that calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number are routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the unauthorized mobile communications service provider; and if the customer has authorized the requested porting, storing in the at least one data store a record of a new association between the second mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number, wherein the record of the new association between the second mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number includes an association between the portable phone number and a routing number unique to the second mobile communications service provider, and wherein the routing number allows calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number to be routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the second mobile communications service provider; wherein the at least one data store comprises a single network-wide data store.

Regarding claim 16, the prior art record does not disclose nor fairly suggest in a communications system including a mobile communications network configured to allow

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portability of mobile phone numbers, a method for preventing unauthorized switching of mobile communications service providers, the method comprising: *receiving a request to prevent unauthorized porting of a portable phone number assigned to a customer, wherein the unauthorized porting comprises creating an association between an unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the assigned portable phone number, including associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the unauthorized mobile communication service provider so that calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number are routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the unauthorized mobile communications service provider; wherein an indication of the association of the portable phone number with the routing number is stored in at least one data store for storing information identifying a mapping between a customer's portable phone number and a unique routable number, wherein the routable number allows calls made to the customer using the portable phone number to be routed to a portion of the mobile communications network associated with a mobile communications service provider, and wherein the at least one data store comprises a single network-wide data store; storing a record of the request to prevent unauthorized porting of the assigned portable phone number; and storing customer authorization information associated with authorizing porting of the assigned portable phone number.*

Regarding claim 20, the prior art record does not disclose nor fairly suggest in a communications system including a mobile communications network configured to allow portability of mobile phone numbers, a method for preventing unauthorized switching of mobile communications service providers, the method comprising: associating a first routable number

with a portable phone number, *wherein the portable phone number is assigned to a customer, and wherein the first routable number allows calls made to the customer using the portable phone number to be routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with, a first mobile communications service provider; receiving from a second mobile communications service provider a request for porting the portable phone number, wherein the porting includes associating a new routable number with the portable phone number, and wherein the new routable number allows calls made to the customer using the portable phone number to be routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the second mobile communications service provider; and based on the request for porting, sending a message to the customer, wherein the message requests that the customer provide authorization for the request for porting so that unauthorized porting can be prevented, wherein the unauthorized porting comprises creating a mapping between an unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number and storing the mapping in the data store, wherein creating the mapping between the unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number includes associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the unauthorized mobile communications service provider so that calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number are routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the unauthorized mobile communications service provider; wherein the at least one data store comprises a single network-wide data store.*

Regarding claim 28, the prior art record does not disclose nor fairly suggest a mobile communications system in a mobile communications network configured for portability of

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mobile phone numbers, the system comprising: means for associating a portable phone number with a first mobile communications service provider; *means for storing a record of the association between the portable phone number and a mobile communications service provider in at least one data store so that information about the association is accessible by multiple communications service providers within the mobile communications network; means for receiving from a second mobile communications service provider a request for porting the portable phone number, wherein the porting includes associating a second mobile communications service provider with the assigned portable phone number; and wherein associating the second mobile communications service provider with the assigned portable phone number includes associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the second mobile communications service provider, and wherein the routing number allows calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number to be routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the second mobile communications service provider ; and means for analyzing a customer database to determine whether the customer has authorized the requested porting, wherein the means for analyzing prevents unauthorized porting, and wherein the unauthorized porting comprises: creating a mapping between an unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number and storing the mapping in the data store, wherein creating the mapping between the unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number includes associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the unauthorized mobile communications service provider so that calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number are routed to portions of the mobile*

communications network associated with the unauthorized mobile communications service provider; wherein the at least one data store comprises a single network-wide data store.

Regarding claim 29, the prior art record does not disclose nor fairly suggest a method for preventing unauthorized switching of mobile communications service providers, the method comprising: receiving at a mobile communication device, an indication of a portable phone number associated with a first mobile service provider for use when calling the mobile communication device; and *receiving from a mobile communications service provider or a third party administrator, a notification of an option to prevent unauthorized switching of the first mobile service provider to a second mobile service provider, wherein the source has at least partial control of the switching, and wherein the wherein the unauthorized switching comprises creating an association between an unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the assigned portable phone number and storing the association in a data store, wherein creating the association between the unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number includes associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the unauthorized mobile communications service provider so that calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number are routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the unauthorized mobile communications service provider; and based on the received notification, providing authorization information for storage at the mobile communications service provider or third party administrator, wherein the authorization information can later be provided by the customer to authorize a switch from the first mobile communications service provider to a second mobile*

communications service provider; wherein the at least one data store comprises a single network-wide data store.

Regarding claim 30, the prior art record does not disclose nor fairly suggest a computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computing device to prevent unauthorized switching of mobile communications service providers, by performing a method comprising: associating a first routable number with a portable phone number, wherein the portable phone number is assigned to a customer, and *wherein the first routable number allows calls made to the customer using the portable phone number to be routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with a first mobile communications service provider; receiving from a second mobile communications service provider a request for porting the portable phone number, wherein the porting includes associating a new routable number with the portable phone number, and wherein the new routable number allows calls made to the customer using the portable phone number to be routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the second mobile communications service provider; based on the request for porting, determining whether the customer has requested protection from unauthorized porting, wherein the unauthorized porting comprises creating an association between an unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the assigned portable phone number and storing the association in a data store, wherein creating the association between the unauthorized mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number includes associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the unauthorized mobile communications service provider so that calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number are routed to portions of the*

mobile communications network associated with the unauthorized mobile communications service provider; and where the customer has requested protection from unauthorized porting, sending a message to the customer, wherein the message requests that the customer provide authorization for the request for porting; wherein the at least one data store comprises a single network-wide data store.

Regarding claim 35, the prior art record does not disclose nor fairly suggest a method for preventing unauthorized switching of mobile communications service providers, the method comprising: receiving at a mobile communication device, an indication of a portable phone number associated with a first mobile communications service provider for use when calling the mobile communication device; and *receiving from a source a message requesting customer authorization for switching from the first mobile service provider to a second mobile service provider, wherein the source is associated with the first mobile communications service provider or a third party administrator, and wherein the source has at least partial control of the switching, and wherein the switching from the first mobile service provider to the second mobile service provider includes creating an association between the second mobile communications service provider and the assigned portable phone number and storing the association in a data store accessed as a result of a call placed by dialing the portable phone number being routed through a switching center to a signal transfer point of the mobile communications network, wherein creating the association between the second mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number includes associating the portable phone number with a routing number unique to the second mobile communications service provider so that calls made to the customer using the assigned portable phone number*

are routed to portions of the mobile communications network associated with the ' second mobile communications service provider; wherein the at least one data store comprises a single network-wide data store.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dai A Phuong whose telephone number is 571-272-7896. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ramos Feliciano Eliseo can be reached on 571-272-7925. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Dai Phuong
AU: 2688
Date: 03-02-2006


ELISEO RAMOS-FELICIANO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Organization **TC 2600**

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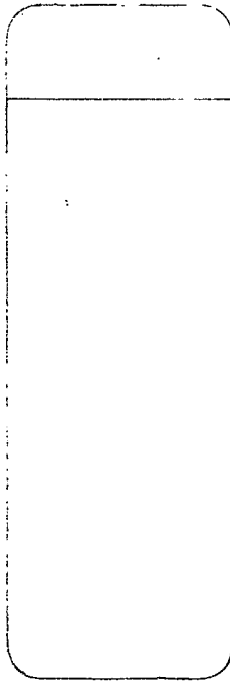
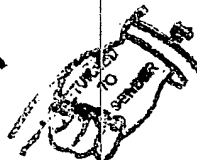
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